



# Family Access Network Update

## Summer 2019-2020 : Volume 109

### CEO Update

Welcome to the FAN Summer newsletter. First of all the big announcement – WE HAVE MOVED, literally just within the last week to 1, 2-10 Harrow Street Box Hill, a new development of the City of Whitehorse, we are thrilled. As exciting and significant as this move is for FAN now and into the future, we would also like to thank the Anglican Parish of Box Hill, most notably St Peter's for the long term tenancy we have enjoyed and the many people from their community who have taken an interest in and supported the work of FAN.

At this time of the year as many of us prepare for celebrations, holidays and other festive activities, it is important to remember those who are apart from their families and the impact. FAN held a Christmas Party for clients, young people, young families and their children and we are appreciative of the support of the following for enabling each young person and child to receive a gift –

SalvoCare Eastern

Rotary Club of Box Hill

Austbrokers Countrywide

Good 360

and we thank Maddie for being Santa – or more correctly, Ms Clause. I extend my warmest wishes to all readers and supporters over the festive season.

Since the last newsletter the Annual General Meeting was held on 2 October and I am pleased to advise the Board for 2019/20:

Chair: Diane Godfrey

Deputy Chair: Jose Abalo

Treasurer: Kelly Rafferty

Secretary: Hannah Hodges

General Board: Richard Scott, Bronwen Henry, Sue Carlile (Ex Officio)

David Burlew retired at the AGM, after 11 years on the Board, he made an enormous contribution during that time and well deserved the Honorary Life Membership presented at the AGM. We are pleased that he is continuing his involvement with FAN as Board Advisors, in their areas of specialisation.

The AGM is also an opportunity to acknowledge young people – The Rhys Fox Achievement Award presented to: Allison Johnson and the Stephen B McLoughlin Encouragement Award presented to: Jamie Boyan & Casey McInroy. Congratulations to all award recipients.

We farewelled Clinton McDonald after 2.5 years at FAN and wish him well for his future. We have welcomed three new workers in the two months, their introductions are included.

In conclusion International Volunteer Day, 5 December, Volunteer For An Inclusive Future – is a highly relevant theme for FAN. FAN is the richer for the ongoing involvement of Volunteers since inception in 1981: volunteers contribute through participation on the Board, as Lead Tenants, Mentors, Child Play Supervisors and project roles – we thank you.

Please also refer to program and other updates contained within this newsletter.

Regards  
Sue



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## ***Board Update***

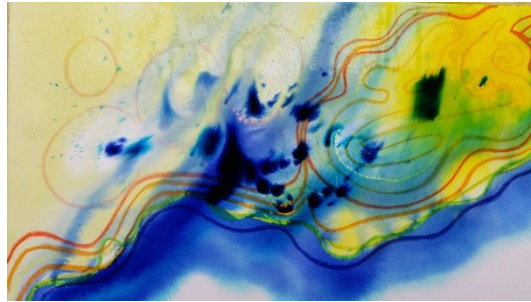
### ***Advocacy in the space of health care service, practice, research and teaching: New challenges and opportunities.***

Ange Morgan recently travelled to the 15<sup>th</sup> European Consortium of Arts Therapies in Education Conference, where they presented a paper: *Brave new frontiers: Using art to support experiences of role, relationship, identity and change in the context of transition and gender diversity within group art therapy*

As an art therapist, lecturer and supervisor I was recently privileged to be able to attend the ECArTE conference in Alcala de Henares, Spain. This is the town of storks and their giant stick nests, and being in September, it was thrilling to watch these elegant birds arrive into the city and settle on the tops of churches, steeples and any other high place they could find, reclaiming their nests and generally observing those beneath them.

I thought about migration and movement, change and the familiar. With change there is disruption, and with disruption, adaptation. As the birds must adapt to new and changing pressures in their environments, we also find ourselves charged with change.

I was attending this conference to connect with current work from a global community of dance, music, drama and art therapy practice – and our combined perspectives were 'similarly rich and diverse. My presentation explored art therapy practice in health care provision and in education and research from the perspective of our current and recent experiences here in Victoria of social change and awareness in relation to gender identity. Post the Marriage Law Postal Survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017), Safe Schools Project, (Victorian State Government, 2019), the Victorian Birth Certificate Bill, (Equality Australia, 2019) and the Religious Discrimination Bill, (Ireland, 2019), those within trans, non-binary and gender diverse communities are finding both an increased access to services, and also new challenges to health arising from the public and often phobic debates easily encountered within all forms of media. And trans, GD and NB communities continue to experience significant issues within healthcare and community services (Kerr, Fisher & Jones, 2019). With change and growth comes disruption and challenge.



Ange Morgan, 2019, *Ecotone* - oil pastel and watercolour paint on paper

Exploring the impact of new opportunities and challenges within art therapy service provision, I presented a range of vignettes for consideration. Arising themes included therapist self-disclosure, the experience of otherness, inclusive language and the possibility for shared and connecting experiences, and inclusion within diversity. Amongst an audience from Germany,

Belgium, The Netherlands and Spain among others, we explored language, articles and pronouns, culture, law and the rapidly changing space of rights, recognition and inclusion for trans, non-binary and gender diverse people. In some languages, articles are gendered, in others, they are not. In some countries transition is supported and celebrated, in others it is outlawed.

Recently, the American Psychological Association published an inclusive language guide to be used by clinicians and researchers, its *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition (2020)*. This details clear specifications, for example, for the elimination of biased language such as 'mankind', or the more recent but frequently encountered habit in psychological and health care literature of using 'she / he'... 'him or her'. These terms erase those people who find their gender not included. And there are so many options outside of these limiting terms and phrases. Of course, here we must acknowledge other limitations, as we work within the English language in this discussion.

In my own practice, working with groups situated within a Victorian and Australian context, I have found that through processes of art making, we experience more connection than disconnection – that through a shared experience, our 'otherness' becomes an experience of belonging. Ripping, tearing, and reconstruction through collage processes, or working with paint on wet paper, we find ourselves in the unknown...creating, changing, exploring and discovering, through a process of creative transformation which is shared in a group setting.



Ange Morgan, 2018, mixed media collage on paper

In nature, the situation of the *ecotone* offers much to contemplate – an environment formed when two different environments come together and explored some years ago by American art therapist Lynn Kapitan (Kapitan, 2015). Examples may be found in situations such as

mangroves, where land meets water, and at this point of joining, in the salty and earthy environment, plants exist that require these conditions. Similarly, where the fresh water of a river meets the tidal salty water of the sea, life exists within this 'other' or liminal environment: plant, fish and bird life that all rely on the tidal ebb and flow.

When we discuss identity in a group, and share making, marking, destruction and reconstruction, new life springs up, as we discover our connections and shared experiences, out of journeys that once seemed isolated and alone. Here, if we can be brave enough to walk through the door and join in a conversation, discoveries are made.

*In the creative process, one action leads to another, and the final outcome is shaped by a chain of expressions that could never be planned in advance.* Shaun McNiff – 1998



Ange Morgan 2019 – River System Ecotone

*This image was taken on land known before and continuing since colonisation as Yiruk and Wamoon, also known as Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory. Today, I acknowledge the clans who have connection to these lands, the Gunaikurnai, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to their connections to the land and water systems in this place.*

#### **References:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). 1800.0 - Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, 2017. Retrieved from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1800.0>

Equality Australia (2019). Fairer birth certificate laws for Victoria. Retrieved from <https://equalityaustralia.org.au/fairer-birth-certificate-laws-for-victoria/>

Ireland, J. (2019). What are the new religious discrimination laws about? Why are politicians talking about religious discrimination now? What do the draft laws say? Would they change things for Israel Folau? Sydney Morning Herald, August 29, 2019

Kapitan, L. (2015). Arts therapies in the ecotone: Contact, collaboration, and creative entanglement. Keynote address. Joint Conference of the Australian Creative Arts Therapies Association and the Australian and New Zealand Arts Therapy Association, Adelaide, Australia

Kerr, L., Fisher, C.M., and Jones, T. (2019). TRANScending discrimination in health & cancer care: A study of trans & gender diverse Australians. (ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 117), Bundoora: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University. McNiff, S. (1998). *Trust the process: An artist's guide to letting go*. Boston:

## Welcoming new staff to the team

### Miles Milton

I'm thrilled to be joining the FAN team as a Youth Support Worker. Fighting for social justice has always been something I am incredibly passionate about. Prior to joining FAN, I worked as a Local Area Coordinator for the NDIS which gave me the opportunity to empower people with disabilities and achieve their goals. For the past 5 years I am proud to have worked within the social services sector to work towards alleviating disadvantage in the community.

Working with young people has always resonated with me. I previously worked abroad in Manchester for 'Centrepoin't' as a Youth Worker where I supported young people who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness. I really enjoyed my time at 'Centrepoin't' and inspired me to devote my personal and working life towards supporting young people facing disadvantage and hardship. I feel privileged to work with young people in such a critical period of their development and I am excited to contribute to the incredible work that FAN has achieved.

### Aaron Ong

My name is Aaron and I am a new Youth Support Worker at FAN. I have a passion for helping young people and have a strong belief in their capacity to make positive changes in their life. I enjoy working with young people and learning about their stories, experiences and achievements. I have been involved in youth homelessness research and program design, which aimed to provide education for at risk or young people experiencing homelessness. I recently completed my student placement in a secondary school where I provided emotional and practical support to students who were having difficulty with school. I am excited about the opportunity to join FAN and make a positive contribution to their programs. I look forward to providing support and helping young people lead more independent and meaningful lives.

### Maddie Sill

Hi! My name is Maddie and I have just started work with FAN as a Youth Support Worker. I have previously worked in the UK for a soccer club where I supported young people to re-engage with education through sport. Most recently I have been at a school specifically designed for young people who have not found success at mainstream schools for a range of reasons. I enjoy working with young people because they always teach me something new and they are capable of so many things. I am looking forward to being part of the FAN team and being able to empower young people to reach their goals.

## Homeless Support Services

The end of the year is a great time to reflect and make positive changes to our lives. While the holiday season can be a time of celebration, the scorching heat also comes with its challenges and difficulties.

Staying cool during summer is important for mental health, physical wellbeing and maintaining positive relationships. Below are some cost effective ways of staying out of the heat and keeping cool.

### 1. Go to the library

If your home doesn't have air-conditioning, a visit to the local library is a great way to keep cool. The library is filled with free books, magazines, movies and Wi-Fi. If you have children, be sure to look into what programs might be available for little ones in the summer, such as story time or book clubs.

### 2. Head to your Local Pool

Visiting your local swimming pool can be a fantastic, cost effective way to stay cool for the day. Swimming in your local pool can also be a great workout! For those with children, many swimming pools provide hours of entertainment for children.

### 3. See a Movie

Chilling out in front of a movie is a great way to escape the summer heat. While going to the movies can be expensive, most cinemas regularly offer promotions and deals. Village Cinemas offers \$15 tickets for Village Members (free sign up) and also offer Baby friendly sessions for \$12!

### 4. Shopping Centre

If you're not up for seeing a movie, all major shopping centres will be blasting air conditioning. Have a wander around some of the shops or simply sit on the bench and partake in some people watching!

### 5. Ice, Ice Baby

Vanilla Ice had the right idea. Ice can be used in multiple ways to stay cool. Placing a frozen water bottle in front of a fan can produce the same effect as an Air Conditioning unit. Knowing where to place ice can also be really beneficial to cooling the body down. Your wrists, elbows and joint creases are the best place to cool the body down, soaking your feet in some ice-cold water will also help cool you down.

If you are out in the heat, always remember to be sun smart and drink plenty of water!



## Creating Connections Private Rental Brokerage Program

During the Christmas and New Year period, it becomes more apparent how important a stable, secure and affordable home is essential to young people's wellbeing. It has been a busy year for the Private Rental Brokerage Program with a consistent number of referrals and private housing outcomes being achieved by the young people we support. We are currently working with a number of young people in assisting them in gaining the skills and knowledge they need to successfully access and sustain private rental housing. Seeking private rental for the first time can be exciting as it is the first step for that young person into independent living, but can also be overwhelming at times. The Private Rental Brokerage Program supports young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to navigate their way through this process. The program enables young people to be more competitive with applying for private rental as well as improving budgeting skills and education on tenants' rights and responsibilities.

For more information you can contact the contact the Private Rental Brokerage Worker at FAN on 9890 2673.

## Children's Program

### **Volunteering with Children: working with children checks**

The aim of working with children (WWC) checks is to keep children safe. People who work or volunteer in child-related work must usually complete a WWC check. This involves filling out a form with details about your past employment and criminal history (if you have one) and submitting it to the relevant authority in your state or territory.

You'll probably need a WWC check if you:

- Work as a nanny, early childhood educator or teacher, or in another child-related field
- Volunteer at your children's school – for example, in the canteen or in the classroom

Volunteer in an organisation that involves children – for example, as a coach or manager of a junior sporting club or drama group.

There are other work or volunteer situations that require you to have a WWC check. Your state or territory authority will be able to tell you about these situations.

If you directly employ someone to care for your children – for example, if you directly employ a nanny – some states will allow you to request a WWC check from a local police station for a fee.



## **LGBTIQ+ Capacity Building Project**

This 12-month project offers tailored support, including consultation, workshops and training, to any organisation providing services and/or support to people who are at risk of homelessness. The project aims to increase the awareness, and undertaking of LGBTIQ+ inclusivity in services. It builds on the LGBTIQ+ inclusivity work that Family Access Network have been undertaking since 2005, and is supported by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information or to arrange support for your organisation, contact the project worker, Jordi Kerr, on 9890 2673.

## **The Whole Package (Engage Grant)**

The Whole Package is a program developed by FAN to address the issues of employability amongst young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or disadvantage within the LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Questioning) community. The program aims to break the cycle of disadvantage by assisting young people with the skills needed to effectively obtain and sustain employment. These skills are often a natural part of development, such as developing a sense of self, resilience and teamwork but if a young person has been isolated from their community and has experienced transience at a young age these invaluable skills can often be missed.

If you are aged from 15-25 years and identify as part of the LGBTIQ community, call the office to get involved - 9890 2673.



## Life Skills Program

### Young Mums Group (YMG)

The YMG was established in 1997 and has been running continuously since then, predominantly funded through City of Whitehorse grants. Due to the increasing numbers of young families presenting to FAN, and the age of the young families being very different from the mainstream community, it became evident that young families were missing out on important social and parenting connections, which led to the establishment of the group.

YMG provides a safe space for young mothers to meet weekly with its core purpose to enable them to develop friendships, self-esteem and connectedness; this is achieved through peer Interaction and participation in the weekly planned activities.

The YMG is held at the Mitcham Family Centre on a Tuesday 12pm—2pm. If you are interested in joining or would like more information you can contact the office on 9890 2673



### Eastern Diversity Group

It's been a fun 4<sup>th</sup> term so far at EDG, if you identify as LGBTIQ+ give us a call and come check it out! We love to try new things, get crafty or just hang out with great young people :)

This Term we've gone to Box Hill Gardens for a picnic and games, learnt how to knit and played pool and gotten spooky with some face painting, craft while talking through a Twilight Zone and Dr.Who episodes on a scorching hot Halloween afternoon.

Coming up is sporty fun with Proud 2 Play, Meditation, an Escape Room and Timezone excursion, a free Responsible Serving of Alcohol qualification and Christmas craft and card making activities.

We meet every Thursday from 3pm to 5pm, in the back space at Youth ConneXions, Level 2 Box Hill Centro. Give us a call on 9890 2673 or send an email to [fan@fan.org.au](mailto:fan@fan.org.au) if you're interested in joining the group, we love to welcome new EDG peeps!



### **We need your HELP!**

You never know who might be interested in giving back to their community so it's worth spreading the word; we would like to bring to your attention the current Volunteer Vacancies;

#### **LEAD TENANT**

FAN is currently seeking to engage a Lead Tenants aged 21 or over to assist us to support three young people in a shared living house. This is a voluntary live-in position that involves a 12 month commitment in exchange for rent free accommodation. You will have your own bedroom and bathroom.

The Lead Tenant is required, in liaison with the agency, to ensure that house rules are maintained. The Lead Tenant is not a professional support role but rather a positive role model living in a shared property. The Lead Tenant would pay for their own food and cleaning products, utility bills are approx. \$27.00 per week.

Ideally suited to someone who is interested in, or actively studying, in the Human Services Field. This position offers ongoing training and support. The purpose of the position is to act as a role model for young people to help them to live and share in independent accommodation.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Volunteer at Family Access Network please call the office on 9890 2673 and speak to the Manager - Client Services

#### **CHILD PLAY SUPERVISORS**

Child Play Supervisors engage in a range of child friendly, age appropriate activities with children while their parents attend appointments, meet with Support Workers or participate in workshops attached to various FAN Programs.

#### **VOLUNTEER MENTORS**

The aim of the Volunteer Mentor is to act as a neutral and consistent role model and provide friendship and support (on a one to one basis) to a young person between the ages of 15-25 years. Mentors and young people meet on a weekly basis – at a time and place that is mutually agreed - and engage in a range of low cost activities that build positive adult relationships and community connection.

# IVCAL

PROVIDING EDUCATION PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK,  
GATEWAY LLEN AND BOX HILL INSTITUTE

IVCAL is a new and innovative approach to learning at Box Hill Tafe.

Offered at foundation, intermediate and senior VCAL levels, IVCAL can be completed 100% online or as a combination of online and class time.

Specifically relevant to young parents, IVCAL can be tailored to each students needs.

The partnership provides young parents already accessing FAN's services to re-engage in an educational program in a flexible, supportive and non-traditional environment through an online model developed by Box Hill Hill Tafe.

If you are interested or want more information contact Michelle at Family Access Network on 9890 2673





## Client Christmas Party

Address 1, 2-10 Harrow Street, Box Hill | P (03) 9890 2673 | F (03) 9890 9919

Postal Address: PO Box 141 Box Hill VIC 3128 | [www.fan.org.au](http://www.fan.org.au) | E [fan@fan.org.au](mailto:fan@fan.org.au)



On behalf of management and staff I wish to thank all our supporters. We recently received donations from Margaret Ogilvie and St Dominic's Parish, who have been long-time supporters of FAN.

We would also like to thank Kevcom — Kevin and staff — for getting our computer system up and running so fast after our move, please note our new address below.

Hope this new year and new decade, 2020, is a happy and safe one for all.

- Maureen, Financial Administrator



# THANK YOU

FOR YOUR

# SUPPORT!

Alfred Felton Bequest

Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Austbrokers Countrywide (Staff)

Australian Government DHS (Staff)

Canterbury Council of Churches

City of Whitehorse

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Premier & Cabinet (Youth Affairs)

Eastern Relief

Family Planning

Good 360

Kevcom

Kogo

Linc

Melbourne Inclusive Church

Orcadia Foundation - Caroline and Derek Young

PostNet Hawthorn

Pride Foundation

Ringwood Magistrates Court

Rotary Club of Box Hill

Rotary Club of Box Hill Volunteers

Salvocare Eastern

Share the Dignity

St Dominic's Parish, East Camberwell

St Kilda Mums

St Peter's Mothers Union, Box Hill

StreetSmart

Wyndham Youth Services —HEY Grant

Youth ConneXions—Whitehorse City Council

Allan Rogerson

Brett Philipp and Band (5 Shades of Grey)

Brian Waldron

Carmel, Georgia and Christina Theodoris

Colin Bellis

Darren Zappa of Red IT

David Burlew and Band (Max Zero)

Debby Blakey

Irene Kay

Kelly Rafferty

Liz Toffoletti

Margaret Ogilvie

Malcom Romano of DesignsenseWeb

Paul Linossier

Richard Scott

Students of Thornbury High School

## Useful Contact Numbers

**Contact Us****Visit us:** 1, 2-10 Harrow Street, Box Hill**Mail:** PO BOX 141, Box Hill, VIC 3128**P:** (03) 9890 2673**F:** (03) 9890 9919**E:** fan@fan.org.au**W:** www.fan.org.au

<b>Housing Assistance</b>		
Eastern Region Opening Doors		1800 825 955
Melbourne City Mission Youth Support		9614 3688
<b>Crisis Counselling</b>		
Lifeline – 24hrs		13 11 14
Suicide Helpline- 24hrs		1300 651 251
Kids Help Line – 24hrs		1800 551 800
Mens Line		1300 789 978
Parentline		13 22 89
<b>Sexual Assault</b>		
Eastern CASA		9895 3281
Sexual Assault Crisis Line		1800 806 292
<b>Health</b>		
Family Planning Victoria		9257 0100
Maternal & Child Health line		13 22 29
Nurse On Call – 24hrs		1300 60 60 24
<b>Domestic Violence</b>		
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre		1800 015 188
Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS)		9259 4200
<b>Child Abuse</b>		
Child Protection Crisis Line		13 12 78
Child Abuse Prevention Services		1800 688 009
<b>Legal Aid</b>		
Eastern Community Legal Centre	Box Hill	9285 4822
	Boronia	9762 6235
<b>Alcohol &amp; Drugs</b>		
Direct Line 24hrs		1800 888 236
Youth Substance Abuse Services – 24hrs		1800 458 685
Eastern Drug & Alcohol Services		1300 650 705
<b>Sexuality &amp; Gender Identity</b>		
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard		9663 2939
Transgender Victoria		9517 6613

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